

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
)
 HANSON S. GIFFORD, III, *et al.*) Examiner: Unassigned
)
 Application No.: Unassigned) Art Unit: Unassigned
)
 Filed: Herewith)
)
 For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR)
 PROTECTING A PASSAGEWAY)
 IN A BODY WHEN ADVANCING)
 DEVICES TH ROUGH THE)
 PASSAGEWAY)
)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the subject application as indicated below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 7, before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" please add the following heading and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/416,309, filed October 12, 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-25, 42-52 and 67 in this application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 26-41 and 53-66 are pending in this application.

If a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (415) 412-3322.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned with "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Please charge any required fees, including any necessary extension-of-time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1247.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 9, 2001



Jens E. Hoekendijk, Reg. No. 37,149

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